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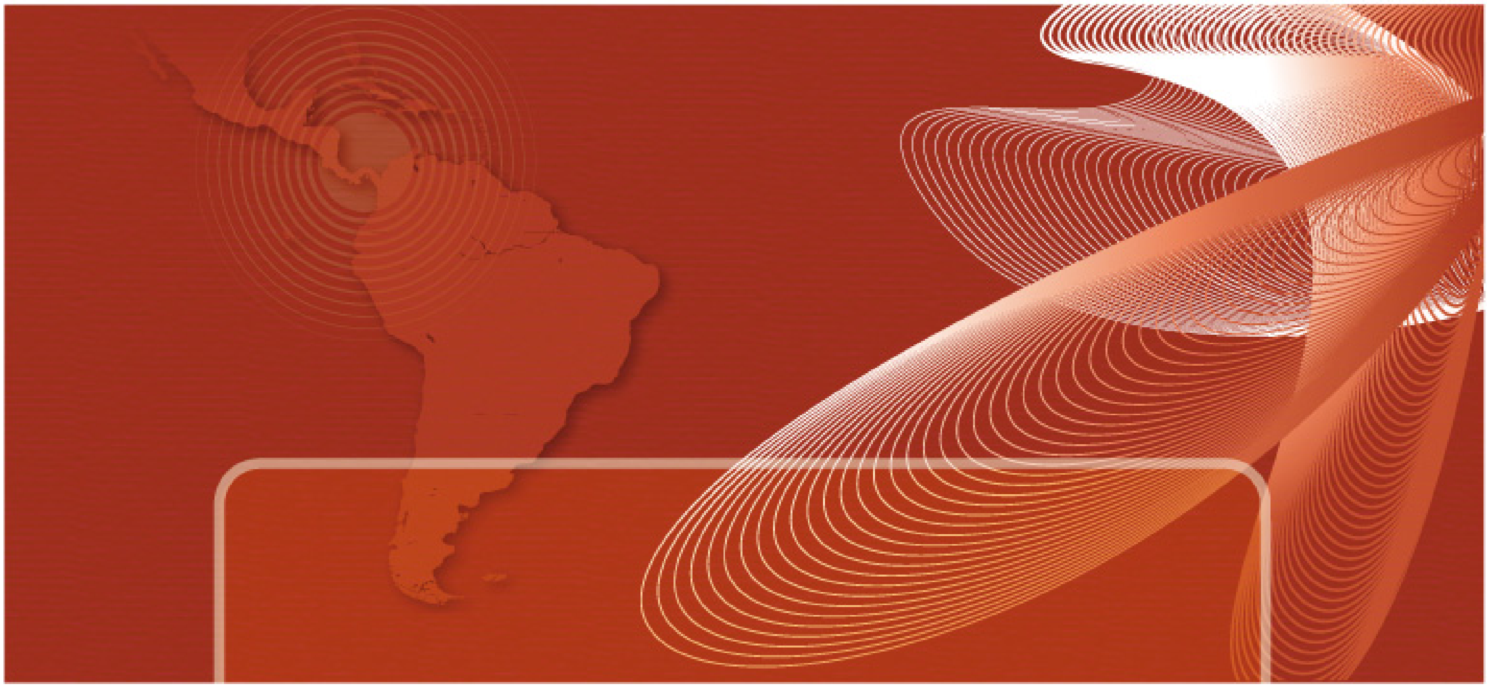
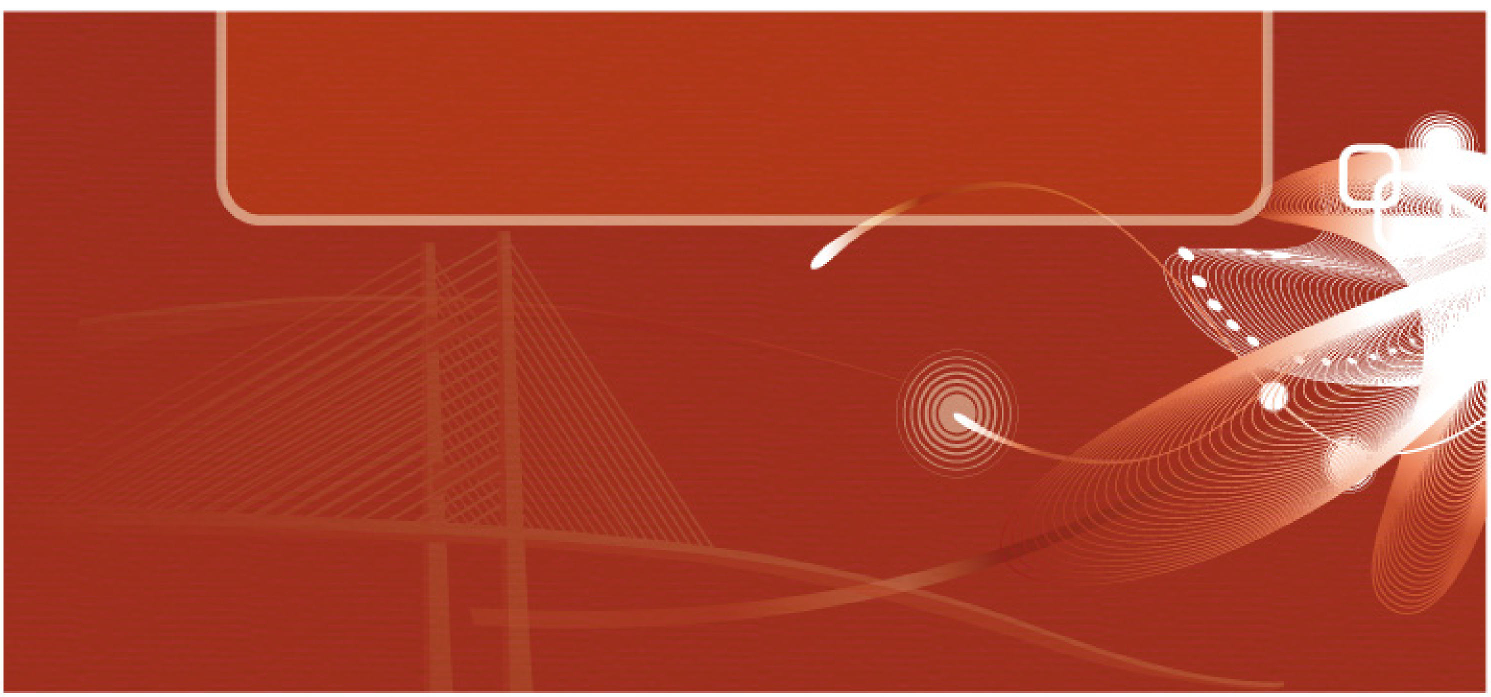
Table of contents

Monthly Highlights



Integration Blocs



The Caribbean

CARIFORUM-EU EPA holds 24th meeting of Joint Parliamentary Assembly

The Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (CARIFORUM)[1] was set up in 1992. The organization includes the Caribbean States that form part of the Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) group of countries,[2] whose goal is to promote and coordinate political dialogue, cooperation, and regional integration between the Caribbean region and the European Union (EU). Through the Cotonou Agreement[3] with the EU, the Caribbean has become the only one of the seven regional blocks that make up the ACP group to have signed a general Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA)[4] with the EU (ACP-EU EPA).[5]/[6]

CARIFORUM was set up in 1992. Its General Secretariat in Guyana is responsible for managing and coordinating the scheduling of regional resources from the European Development Fund (EDF), the instrument for aid to development cooperation that the EU provides to the ACP States, the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, which enjoy the status of observers, and the Overseas Departments and Territories of France (TOMs), with which there is active cooperation to provide technical and financial assistance.[7] Successive EDFs are agreed for five-year cycles and are composed of resources from the EU Member States, without coming under the EU budget.

The institutional structure of the ACP-EU EPA has a Joint Parliamentary Assembly, created to bring together on a regular basis the members of the European Parliament and representatives of the ACP Group that have signed the Cotonou Agreement. The 24th Meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly was held in Paramaribo, Suriname, November 27-29, 2012, and focused on food security, unemployment, poverty reduction, and corruption. However, the central concern of the parliamentary representatives of this 24th Session, focused on the signs that the ACP-EU cooperation framework may not be considered to feature among the priorities of the European agenda, and that this would lead to cuts in funding to the region from the EDF. The concern stems from the European Council's proposal to provide assistance on the basis of national economic growth indicators, a criterion which, according to the Caribbean countries, does not take poverty levels into account. This would mean a cut in development aid funding of over 7%, in relation to the

scheme suggested by the European Commission.
The tenth EDF of the ACP-EU agreement, covering the period 2008-2013, provides 165 million euros in financial resources.
Since the 1980s trade between Europe and the ACP countries has been based on tariff preferences, which, on the one hand, have not helped to diversify their exports or strengthen their industries, and, on the other, were incompatible with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
The EPA between CARIFORUM and the EU substantially liberalizes trade between the two regions, and points to the gradual liberalization of Caribbean markets owing to access to the EU market via a "duty-free quota-free" trade regime and simplified rules of origin for goods from CARIFORUM, as well as unprecedented access to certain service providers. The coverage of goods liberalized by the CARIFORUM countries under the Agreement is worth 61% of EU imports over the first 10 years, 82% after 15 years (85% of tariff lines), and 86% after 25 years (90% of tariff lines). The main exclusions from tariff reductions are agricultural products and processed agricultural products, as well as some chemicals, furniture, and other industrial products.

More information at the following links: [1], [2].

20th CARIFORUM Ministerial Meeting

After the 24th Session of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the 20th CARIFORUM Ministerial Meeting was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, November 30, at which the organization's Council of Ministers sat.
In response to the proposal to cut EDF funding, CARIFORUM members formally called on the European Council to reconsider this proposal.
During the meeting, it was agreed that ministers would take part en bloque both in the CELAC Summit and in the 7th Summit for ACP Heads of State and Government in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, December 13-14, 2012.

More information here.

CARICOM and Dominican Republic continue to build cooperation

CARICOM Secretary General, Irwin LaRocque, held a meeting with Dominican Republic's Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development, Juan Temístocles Montás, on the occasion of his visit to the country for the 20th CARIFORUM Ministerial Meeting.
During the meeting, the officials discussed the strategic cooperation partnership for regional development in the areas of science and technology, customs systems, the environment, agriculture, education and public policy reforms, and competitiveness.

More information at the following links: [1], [2], [3].

[1] CARIFORUM, consisting of the Caribbean States from the ACP Group, is made up of all the CARICOM members except Montserrat: Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago, to which are added Cuba and Dominican Republic, a total of sixteen countries. All of them, with the exception of Cuba, are signatories of both the Cotonou Agreement between the countries of the ACP Group and the EU, and the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), signed in 2008. On the EU's side, so far 10

of the 27 Member States have ratified the Agreement.
[2] The Lomé Convention of 1975-1995 was signed by the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific that form the ACP group. For more information concerning the historical background of the Lomé Convention, click here.
[3] The Cotonou Agreement, which gave rise to the ACP-EU EPA, was signed June 23, 2000, in Cotonou, Benin, for a twenty-year period that expires in February 2020.
[4] EPAs are trade agreements, but aim to achieve development goals by promoting consolidation of regional integration initiatives among ACP countries, gradual integration of CARIFORUM countries in the world economy, institutional strengthening in terms of trade policy and trade issues, and support of conditions for further investment. See *Partnership for Change: The EU's Development Cooperation with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries*. European Union. Belgium. 2010.
[5] See *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 152*, March 2009. See also *Globalization. Everything but Alms: The EPA and Economic Development*, Richard L. Bernal, Grace Kennedy Foundation Lecture 2008, Jamaica, 2008. 122 p.
[6] See *Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs): African, Caribbean and Pacific Voices Speak Up for Trade and Development*. European Commission. Belgium.
[7] The EDF was originally conceived as an EU mechanism for aid to African countries when they were European colonies. As well as the EDF, the EU's general budget provides assistance through a series of geographic and thematic instruments. The following instruments are applicable to the ACP countries: the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Instrument for Stability (IfS).

Central America

SICA Summit tackles food security, climate change, and institutional reform

The 40th Summit of Presidents of the Central American Integration System (SICA) was held in Managua, Nicaragua, December 12-13.
The central goal of SICA, which comprises El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama,[1] is Central American integration.
The Official Statement of the 40th Summit reaffirmed the member countries' commitment to continue to move forward in consolidating the regional integration process.
The meeting addressed issues related to Food and Nutritional Security, for which a set of actions were agreed to be implemented.
Similarly, the validity of the Central American Security Strategy was reaffirmed,[2] and satisfaction was expressed for the successful coordination in submitting a joint position on climate change at COP 18.[3]
In economic integration, the growth of intraregional trade was highlighted, and the adoption of the Protocol of Incorporation of the Republic of Panama to the SICA's Central American Economic Integration Subsystem (SIECA), which will be considered by Panama's National Assembly of Deputies in January.
SICA will start a process of assessment of its constituent institutions in order to submit a proposal in five months for reforms to increase the efficiency, transparency, and equal participation in the system of all its members.
Last, the importance of the European Parliament's approval of the Partnership Agreement with the European Union was highlighted.[4]
The SICA Pro-Tempore Presidency passed from Nicaragua to Costa Rica, which will hold it for the next six months.

Other statements from the 40th SICA Summit:
Special statement on the earthquake in western Guatemala
Special statement of support for the President of the Republic of Honduras

Special statement of Solidarity for the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez Frías and the Bolivarian People of Venezuela

More information here.

COMIECO: meets ahead of Presidents Summit

The agenda for the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Central American Economic Integration (COMIECO) covered four issues: to learn about Guatemala's request to approve a zero-tariff quota on yellow corn to finalize preparations for the forum on the prospects for Central American economic integration, to be held in Managua, Nicaragua, next month to learn about the agendas and logistics of the COMIECO and the forum's meetings with Agriculture and Foreign Ministers and to share information on the SICA Presidents Summit.

Central American Action Plan finalized for second half of 2012 to benefit agricultural and food sectors

Under Nicaragua's Pro-Tempore Presidency, there has been significant progress, reflected in the approval of technical regulations, and tariff openings and reductions that will mainly benefit the agriculture and food sectors. The details of breakthroughs are available here.
The semi-annual action plans are designed to strengthen the economic integration process with a view to moving toward establishing a Customs Union between Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The procedure consists in establishing negotiating tables on specific issues, and was launched in early 2010.
For the first half of 2013, when Costa Rica will hold the *Pro-Tempore* Presidency, objectives were proposed in three core areas: to follow up on the implementation of the Partnership Agreement between Central America and the European Union; to work on the area of trade facilitation, and to deepen Central American economic integration.

First Ordinary Meeting of SICA Energy Ministers Council

The 1st Ordinary Meeting of the SICA Energy Ministers Council was held in Managua, Nicaragua, December 5, and was attended by Energy Ministers and Directors, as well as Hydrocarbons Directors of the bloc's member countries.
In the meeting's Statement, Ministers welcomed the project profiles on the sustainable use of wood and the incorporation of biofuels produced by the Technical Groups, which are also working on the development of regional initiatives in energy legislation, the design of funds for their implementation, fuel saving in transport, and the incorporation of natural gas in the regional energy matrix.
They also agreed to seek alignment of these programs with the international agencies working in regional projects in the field, including the Mesoamerica Project and the Regional Electricity Market, part financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
The second meeting is to be held in the first half of 2013.

More information here.

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "Mesoamerica Project: electrical interconnections", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 178*, June 2011.
- IDB/INTAL. "Central America makes progress in physical integration", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 168*, August 2010.
- IDB/INTAL. "Building of the new Central American power transmission line starts", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 120*, July 2006.

[1] Belize and Dominican Republic are also members.
[2] See *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 192,* "Mexico to host Central America Security Strategy meeting", August 2011.
[3] See *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 192,* "Climate change: fears over COP 18", November 2012.
[4] See "Central America: Fresh progress in trade negotiations", in the current edition of INTAL *Monthly Newsletter*.

Central America: Fresh progress in trade negotiations

European Parliament adopts Association Agreement with Central America

December 11, the European Parliament approved the European Union Central American Association Agreement (EU-CAAA). This paves the way for the Agreement's entry into force in order to build momentum in trade, investment, and cooperation between the two regions.
Ratification by the Council of the European Union is still pending—though it is expected by early 2013—as is the completion of the respective legislative procedures of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. It should be noted that the Agreement is to enter into force on a bilateral basis with the countries that ratify it. So far, only Nicaragua has completed the domestic legislative process for its approval.
The EU-CAAA, which was signed in June 2012, is the first biregional agreement at global level. Its three pillars—political dialogue, cooperation, and trade—will, in addition to opening new markets, help to build a stable environment for business and investment.
In the trade pillar, Central America will immediately liberalize 47% of the tariff universe, while the EU has granted 91%, consolidating and improving the preferences granted under the Generalized System of Preferences. According to projections by the European Union, once the agreement is implemented—estimated for the second quarter of 2013—trade flows will increase by between 25% and 30%, which will translate into economic growth for Central America of between 1% and 2%.
On the same occasion, the European Parliament approved the agreements signed with Colombia and Peru.

More information at the following links: [1]; [2]

Details of the negotiations between Central America and the EU are available at IDB/INTAL Legal Instruments of Integration.

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "Central America signs Association Agreement with EU", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 191*, July 2012

New issues closed in EFTA negotiations

The 5th round of negotiations toward a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, and Guatemala, and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was held in Guatemala, December 10-14.
At the meeting, Costa Rica successfully closed the negotiations and presented the Results Report, while the talks with Panama were close to completion. Guatemala and Honduras have yet to agree

commitments on market access and trade in services.
This round generally managed to conclude the negotiations on barriers to trade, competition policy, government procurement, and telecommunications. The meeting also addressed issues concerning markets access, rules of origin, trade facilitation, intellectual property, services, and investment.
The agreement with the European bloc—made up of Switzerland, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland—is expected to be signed in early 2013.

More information at the following links: [1]; [2]; [3]

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "First negotiating round between the EFTA and Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 187*, March 2012.
- IDB/INTAL. "Negotiating fronts in Central American external trade talks", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 190*, June 2012.
- IDB/INTAL. "EFTA and Canada form focus of Central American trade negotiations", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 193*, September 2012.
- IDB/INTAL. "Central America: active efforts in trade", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 195*, November 2012.

Ecuador approves PSA with Guatemala

December 4, Ecuador's National Assembly approved the Partial Scope Agreement (PSA) with Guatemala signed in April 2011.
The agreement will then enter into force once the document has been ratified by the President of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, which is expected by January 2013, having already been approved by the Guatemalan Congress in February 2012.
On the whole, the PSA will allow immediate access for 593 tariff-free products and it will gradually cut tariffs on 84 products over the course of seven years. It also eliminates non-tariff barriers in order to facilitate trade on a predictable, transparent and permanent basis.
Guatemala exports plastics, paper and cardboard, pharmaceuticals, and some seeds to Ecuador, while it imports chemicals, fats, edible oils, footwear, and leather goods from the Andean country.
According to Ecuador's National Assembly, the agreement opens up possibilities for the shrimping industry, flowers and ornamental plants, cafeterias, canned food, the white line, medicines, soaps, paints, rubber, plastic and leather items, and other items.
The PSA seeks to promote cooperation in the productive sectors, considering the special needs of micro, small and medium enterprises.
It also establishes a trade dispute settlement system, stimulates investment and technological innovation, and drives trade in value-added goods that ensure the use of clean technologies.
El Salvador is also conducting negotiations with Ecuador. A mini-round was held November 22-23, with a view to signing an Economic Complementarity PSA between the two countries.
The topics covered in the meeting were limited to rules of origin and market access. The third round of talks is scheduled for December.

More information at the following links: [1]; [2]

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "Multifaceted Central American trade agenda", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 192*, August 2012.
- IDB/INTAL. "Central America: active efforts in trade", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 195*, November 2012.

Andean Community

FTA between Colombia, Peru, and EU comes into force

The parliaments of Peru, Colombia, and the European Union (EU) approved the Association Agreements between their countries, December 11. Negotiations toward these agreements were completed in 2010, and they were signed June 26, pending formal ratification by the respective parliaments.

As noted in *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 191*, economic and commercial relations between the parties have expanded significantly over the past few decades. The EU is Colombia's second largest trading partner, representing 13.4% of the total, and Peru's third largest, with a share of 15.4%. The agreements will allow the parties to gradually eliminate tariffs on exports and imports, as well as to liberalize services markets and government procurement. It will thus help to open up markets and generate new opportunities for trade and investment, and will promote stability and predictability in economic relations between the parties.

On the same occasion, the European Parliament approved the Association Agreement with Central America.

More information at the following links: [1], [2]

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "EU-Colombia/Peru trade agreement signed", INTAL *Monthly Newsletter No. 191*, July 2012.

Progress in Andean labor migration

The countries of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) came a step nearer facilitating labor migration, with the ultimate goal of recognizing the same rights for all Andean workers. During the 14th Meeting of the Labor Ministers Council in Lima, Peru, November 20, the Labor Ministers of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru adopted a series of important measures. These include:

- the implementation of the Andean Employment Network to form a "joint employment exchange" for the four countries;
- the approval of a regulation to ensure citizens have equal employment treatment in the four Andean countries;
- the establishment of a mechanism to enable one country's certification of labor competencies to be recognized in the other countries.

The meeting also agreed the text of the Regulation of Decision 545: "Andean Labor Migration Instrument", while this Decision dates from 2003, discussion of its Regulation has taken several years. Once approved, it will be a basic tool to ensure that all workers share the same rights, duties, and obligations as the nationals of any of the countries in the integration scheme.

More information here.

MERCOSUR

MERCOSUR grows

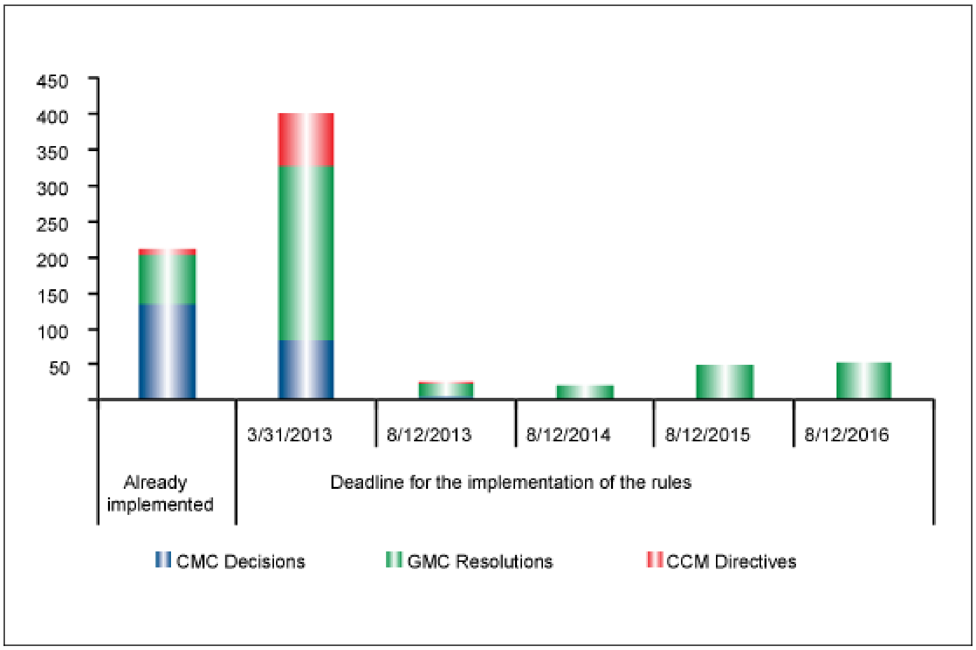
MERCOSUR has, in recent years, been carrying out negotiations in attempt to add new partners. Last July, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela became the bloc's first non-founder member, and the Protocol of Accession to MERCOSUR of the Plurinational State of Bolivia was signed at the 44th Regular Meeting of the Common Market Council (CMC) and Summit of MERCOSUR Heads of States (see the article in the current issue of the INTAL Monthly Newsletter) in Brasilia, Brazil, 7 December. Ecuador's possible entry is also still being studied.

Progress in Venezuela's incorporation

The Brasilia Summit—the first in which Venezuela took part as a full member of the bloc—saw progress in terms of the new member's commitments to join MERCOSUR.
First, the foundations were laid for the convergence of the Venezuelan tariff structure to the Common External Tariff (CET). To this end, products were divided into four categories, which are to converge with the CET in April 2013 (28.2% of the total), 2014 (18.3%), 2015 (15.8%), and 2016 (37.7%) respectively. Venezuela may, however, keep 260 products exempt from the CET until the end of 2017, and 160 for a further year. The headings where tariffs on a greater proportion of products are to be adjusted next year are ores; precious stones and metals and articles thereof; weapons; goods and miscellaneous products; footwear; base metals and articles thereof; and plant products. In contrast, the categories where adjustment will be slower for a greater number of items include textiles; skins, hides, and articles thereof; and wood, coal, cork and articles thereof.
Second, there was progress over Venezuela's incorporation of the regulatory acquis. The country has already adopted 27.7% of the rules (59% in the case of the CMC decisions) and has finished defining the schedule according to which it will incorporate the remaining regulations. Over half of these rules will be adopted by March 31, 2013, (Graph 1).

Graph 1: Timetable for Venezuela's incorporation of MERCOSUR regulatory acquis (1991-2012)

Number of rules by period



Source: Based on data from CMC Decision No. 66/12

Last, the Summit set Venezuela's contributions to the budget of the bloc's various institutions, such as the MEROCOSUR Structural Convergence Fund (FOCEM), the MERCOSUR High Representative, and the MERCOSUR Social Institute.

Bolivia's accession

For Bolivia to become a full member, the recently signed Accession Protocol must be approved by that country's parliament and of all the MERCOSUR States Party. In addition, Bolivia must adjust its nomenclature, tariff structure, and rules of origin to the bloc's, as well as incorporating the complete regulatory acquis in a period of four years.
The process of Bolivia's accession was launched in 2007, with CMC Decision No. 01/07, which created an Ad Hoc Working Group for this area. In principle, the impact of Bolivia's entry to the bloc would be limited in terms of trade, since the Protocol is to replace Economic Complementation

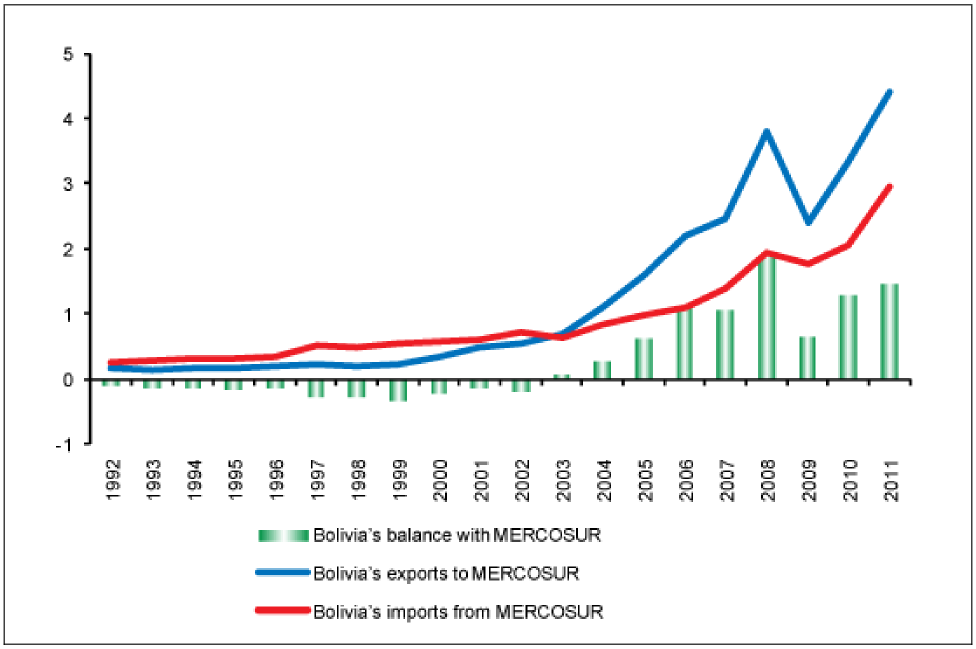
Agreement (ECA) No. 36 and the Agreement on Trade and Economic Complementarity between Venezuela and Bolivia, which established free trade between the parties. However, it is possible that the regulatory changes will have a positive impact on trade flows. Also, on becoming a State Party, Bolivia will participate in MERCOSUR with full rights and obligations. In the meantime, the country will have the right to speak at the meetings of MERCOSUR bodies and forums.

Unlike Venezuela, which resigned from the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) before joining MERCOSUR, Bolivia continues to be a member. While this bloc authorizes any of the Andean partners to sign with third countries (Decision 598), its members' membership of other customs unions is not provided for. Against this background, the CAN authorities stressed that the situation of Bolivia's dual membership of both integration processes must be defined.

In the past five years, Bolivia's exports to MERCOSUR[1] have grown at an average cumulative annual (c.a.) rate of 14.8%, totaling US$4,410 million in 2011. In the same period, Bolivian imports from the five members of the bloc have risen at an average rate of 21.6% (c.a.) to a total of US$2,949 million, giving rise to a surplus of US$1.462 billion in favor of Bolivia. As seen in Graph 2, Bolivia, during the 1990s, had trade deficits with MERCOSUR. The reversion of the balance in 2003 reflected the emergence of a surplus with Brazil, due to the sharp increase in shipments of Bolivian natural gas, driven primarily by the increase in gas prices. In the past few years, the trade balance with Brazil and Venezuela has been positive for Bolivia, and in deficit with the other countries, although, in 2011, it saw a surplus with Argentina and a negative result with Venezuela (Graph 2).

Graph 2: Bolivia's trade with MERCOSUR (including Venezuela)

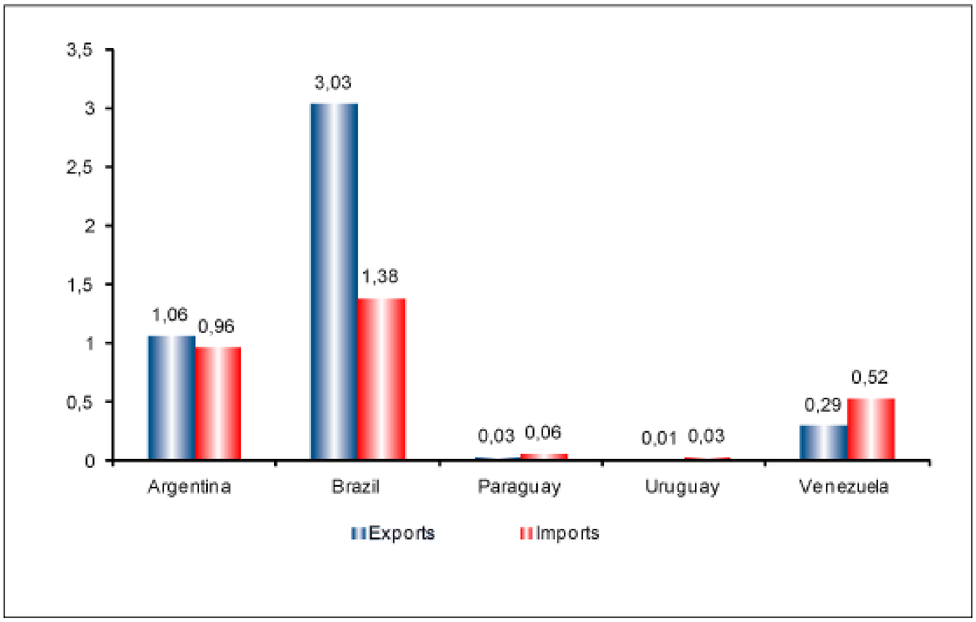
In billions of US$



Source: DATAINTAL.

Graph 3: Bolivia's trade with MERCOSUR

In billions of US$. 2011 data.



Source: DATAINTAL.

As shown in Table 1, Bolivia's exports to MERCOSUR are highly concentrated: 88.2% of shipments correspond to fuels, more precisely to natural gas sold to Brazil and Argentina. While fuels are also the main chapter in imports from MERCOSUR, Bolivia buys different products from the bloc, most notably diesel from Venezuela and Argentina, and gasoline from Brazil. Also prominent in purchases from MERCOSUR are mechanical machinery, iron and steel, and plastics.

Table 1. Composition of Bolivia's trade with MERCOSUR

By Harmonized System chapter. As percentage of total. 2011 data.

	Bolivian exports to MERCOSUR	
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	88.2%
23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder	4.1%
15	Animal or Vegetable Fats and Oils and their cleavage Products; Prepared Edible fats; animal or Vegetable waxes	1.8%
26	Ores, slag and ash	1.1%
80	Tin and articles thereof	0.8%
	Others	4.0%

	Bolivian imports from MERCOSUR	
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances; mineral waxes	30.1%
84	Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; parts thereof	12.7%
72	Iron and steel	7.5%
39	Plastics and articles thereof	4.4%
73	Articles of iron or steel	4.3%
	Others	40.9%

Source: DATAINTAL.

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "Venezuela, a MERCOSUR member", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 192*, August 2012.

[1] Including Venezuela.

MERCOSUR Summit

The 44th Ordinary Meeting of the Common Market Council (CMC) and Summit of MERCOSUR Heads of State, was held in Brasilia, Brazil, 7 December, at which Uruguay took over the bloc's Pro Tempore Presidency. The most important points of this gathering[1] were to do with the expansion of the bloc (see the article on this topic in the current issue of the INTAL Monthly Newsletter): on the one hand, the signing of the Accession Protocol of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and, on the other, the progress linked to the adjustment of the tariff structure, and the adoption of the bloc's regulatory acquis by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
The Communiqué of the MERCOSUR Heads of State highlighted concerns about the fragility of the global economy, and the need for the G20 to promote the application of expansionary policies and to strengthen the regulation of the international financial system in order to stimulate sustainable growth, while stressing the need to move forward with the macroeconomic coordination of the bloc's countries. The leaders also underlined the importance of achieving a balanced outcome to the Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO), with an emphasis on protectionism in the agricultural sector which affects the bloc's exports.

Asymmetries

The Presidents reaffirmed the importance of overcoming disparities through the implementation of regional, cross-cutting, and integrated social projects in the framework of the MERCOSUR Strategic Social Action Plan (PEAS). Efforts will be made to ensure that PEAS projects are funded with resources from the MERCOSUR Structural Convergence Fund (FOCEM).
Several relevant decisions relating to the FOCEM emerged from the CMC Summit. First, the 2013 Budget was approved: to the US$99.7 million allocated for that year will be added a further US$104.9 million available from previous years (Table 1). In accordance with Decision No. 41/12, Venezuela will contribute an annual US$15.5 million to the FOCEM and a further US$11.5 million to finance Programs I, II, and III, as well as plurinational projects.

Table 1: MERCOSUR Structural Convergence Fund (FOCEM): 2013 Budget.
Allocation of resources by country and Program IV

In millions of US$ and as percentage of total.

Beneficiary	2013 Allocation		Available from the previous year		Total	
	Millions of US$	% of total	Millions of US$	% of total	Millions of US$	% of total
Argentina	11.1	11.1%	22.5	21.4%	33.5	16.4%
Brazil	11.1	11.1%	19.5	18.6%	30.6	14.9%
Paraguay	45.8	46.0%	4.9	4.7%	50.8	24.8%
Uruguay	31.2	31.3%	58.0	55.3%	89.2	43.6%
Venezuela	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%
Program IV	0.5	0.5%	0.0	0.0%	0.5	0.2%
Total	99.7	100.0%	104.9	100.0%	204.5	100.0%

Source: CMC Decision No. 48/12.

Second, it was decided to consider a possible capitalization of the FOCEM, and a review of the contributions and resources received by each country in light of the incorporation of new States Parties.
Third, four projects were approved to be part funded by the FOCEM: (1) Railroad II Rehabilitation (Piedra Sola-Tres Árboles-Algorta-Paysandú and Queguay-Salto-Salto Grande sections) (US$127.3 million, two-thirds of which will be financed by the FOCEM); (2) Building Infrastructure for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in MERCOSUR (US$503,000, provided almost entirely by the FOCEM); (3) Arturo Jauretche National University Local and Regional Development Hub in the district of Florencio Varela (US$26.5 million, 53% of which is to come from the FOCEM) to seek social promotion for the most vulnerable sectors; and (4) Integrated Urban Sanitation in Aceguá (Brazil) and Aceguá (Uruguay).

External Agenda

There have been some important recent developments relating to the external agenda. On the one hand, MERCOSUR formally requested at the Summit the bloc's participation as an observer in the Pacific Alliance, after Uruguay did so individually. The CMC also decided that the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Suriname may participate as guests at MERCOSUR

meetings to discuss areas of common interest.
On the other hand, in recent months, some of the MERCOSUR economies have recently been involved in questions in the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) over measures applied both by them and by some trading partners.[2]
At the Council for Trade in Goods meeting, November 26, the European Union (EU), with the support of other countries, expressed its concern about the use of the Industrial Products Tax (IPI) by Brazil to protect its automotive sector, given that the amount to be levied is reduced the higher the national content of automobiles. Brazil, for its part, argued that the incentives of the *Innovar Auto* program, which aims to encourage technological development, are compatible with the rules of the multilateral trading system, since they depend on vehicles' energy efficiency. At the same meeting, Brazil and Paraguay, together with 21 countries, signed a declaration urging Ukraine to reverse its intention to renegotiate commitments consolidated with the WTO. Uruguay also supports this initiative.
The WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) saw some formal complaints involving Argentina, after no agreements were reached in consultations with their trading partners. On the one hand, Mexico, United States, the EU, and Japan requested an arbitration panel be set up to examine various measures imposed by Argentina on its foreign purchases. Similarly, Panama requested from the WTO consultations on certain restrictions that Argentina is allegedly applying to imports of goods and services. On the other hand, Argentina formally sued United States before the WTO for preventing the entry of meat and fresh lemons from Argentina, and the EU and Spain for the restrictions imposed on the importation of Argentine biodiesel.
Similarly, Argentina and Mexico agreed restart trading in the automobile sector, after the former suspended the application of Economic Complementation Agreement (ECA) No. 55 in the middle of this year. However, free trade as envisaged in ECA-55 will not apply; instead a quota will be set whereby Argentina may import from Mexico automotive products worth US$600 million (a reduction of 33%) over the next three years. In addition, the regional content to benefit from the agreement will go from 30% today to 40% by 2016.

Other relevant topics on the domestic agenda

Argentina became the first State Party to approve the MERCOSUR Customs Code, and there were two important meetings between the authorities of some of the bloc's countries.
On the one hand, the presidents of Argentina and Brazil, Cristina Fernández and Dilma Rousseff, spoke at the 18th Argentine Industrial Conference. Both leaders stressed the importance of the bilateral relationship and, among other relevant aspects, the need to overcome the obstacles to integration between the two countries, to promote permanent dialogue between the public and private sectors, to strengthen the industrial sector through productive integration and the development of infrastructure, to stimulate innovation. The drop in bilateral trade (13.6% YOY between January and November of this year) is due, in Rousseff's opinion, to the contraction of activity in the two countries and to administrative barriers to trade.
On the other hand, Brazil and Uruguay adopted an additional protocol for the free movement of goods and services, which provides, among other relevant aspects, for mechanisms and procedures on rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and anti-trust legislation. The two countries also made progress in the bilateral agenda in terms of productive integration, specifically as it relates to science and technology, telecommunications, software, and shipbuilding.

[1] See full list of CMC-approved Decisions at the Summit in Table 2.
[2] For more information on the participation of the MERCOSUR economies and the other Latin American countries in WTO disputes, see the January 2013 *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 197*.

UNASUR

Natural resources a priority for UNASUR

The 6th Regular Meeting of the Council of Heads of State and Government of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) was held in Lima, Peru, November 30, to discuss the achievements and action plans of the various different South American Councils, including Defense, Health, Economy, Social Development, and Energy.
In other business, the UNASUR General Secretariat submitted to the Heads of State the proposal to develop a regional strategy for the full utilization of natural resources. The proposal considers natural resources as a core dynamic in regional integration and unity. Among other matters, it proposes:

- to set up a high-level commission that answers directly to the Council of Heads of State and Government in order to address this issue;
- to gather information relating to the estimated and proven reserves of natural resources in the region;
- to conduct comparative studies on the policies, laws, and contractual arrangements regarding the granting of rights to exploit the countries' natural resources;
- to study the surpluses and deficits in natural resources for each of our countries and the possibility of developing complementation policies and plans through exchange and the application of countertrade mechanisms.

To view the Closing Statement click here.

Third COSIPLAN Meeting

The 3rd Meeting of the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN) was held November 16 in the framework of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). The member countries' authorities in the area of infrastructure, chaired by UNASUR Secretary-General, Alí Rodríguez Araque, assessed the progress made during 2012 and set out the work plan for the coming year. It was also agreed to build momentum for South American interconnection through the laying of a Fiber Optic Network.
The COSIPLAN, set up in 2010 in the framework of the Fourth Meeting of UNASUR Heads of States, recognizes and brings continuity to the progress made by the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA). The statutes and regulations of the COSIPLAN include IIRSA as its technical infrastructure forum, thus becoming one of the COSIPLAN's support bodies. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) supports IIRSA and the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL) is the Secretariat for the Technical Coordination Committee.

To view the documents approved at the 3rd COSIPLAN Meeting click here.

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "UNASUR and infrastructure", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 184*, December 2011.

Regional And Global Overview

Doha Climate Change Summit reduces commitments

The 18th Conference of the Parties (COP 18) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in Doha, Qatar, November 26-December 8. COP 18 set out with three main objectives: to achieve a second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol; to move forward the negotiations for a new global climate deal; and to move toward a loss and damage mechanism for developing countries.

The Kyoto Protocol was initially negotiated in 1997 and came into force in 2005, ratified by 179 countries. It included binding commitments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 5% between 2008-2012, compared to 1990 levels for 37 industrialized countries and the European Union.[1]

These goals are a long way from being met. Thanks to the support of major emitters such as the European Union and Australia, Doha set a second period of commitments for the period between 2013 and 2020.[2] However, in this second stage, there is an absence of important countries like New Zealand, Canada, Japan, and Russia that were present in the first stage.

Also, by not including in large emitters like China and United States it is estimated that the agreement will not be enough to prevent an increase in climate change over the 2°C on pre-industrial levels, a limit estimated by scientists to prevent the occurrence of catastrophic climatic events. Emissions by the countries currently part of Kyoto do not reach 15% of total emissions.[3]

On the other hand, Doha sought progress in the negotiations for a long-term agreement that includes both emerging and developed countries. As noted in the *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 184*, the Durban Platform approved at the December 2011 Summit established a working group with the goal of negotiating a new legally binding treaty to all emitters (traditional and emerging). Doha reaffirmed the aim that this new legal instrument under negotiation should be signed in 2015 and launched in 2020, and progress was made in the work plan of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), formed for this purpose. In addition, the countries stated that they will seek more ambitious goals to promote mitigation prior to the 2020 agreement with the intention of compensating for the shortcomings of the Kyoto Protocol.

Last, at Doha it was agreed to include in the negotiations the issue of any losses and damage due to climate change that may be incurred in developing countries: these range from sea level rises to severe weather phenomena. The fact that it starts a process to consider a future compensation mechanism for loss and damage in developed countries is an important step forward for them.

The decisions approved at COP 18 are available here.

Related articles

- IDB/INTAL. "The Copenhagen Summit", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 160*, November 2009.
- IDB/INTAL. "Climate change: fears over COP 18", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 195*,

November 2012.

- IDB/INTAL. "Climate Change in Durban: agreements on key issues", *INTAL Monthly Newsletter No. 184*, December 2011.

[1] International Centre for Sustainable Trade and Development (ICSTD), "Negociaciones sobre cambio climático de Naciones Unidas concluyen con progresos moderadores", in *Puentes Diario de Doha 2*, December 14, 2012.
[2] In this second period, the countries that have binding commitments to reducing emissions are: the European Union countries, Australia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Monaco, Norway, Switzerland, and Ukraine. Their commitments to emissions reduction vary depending on countries. For more information, see the UNFCCC's "Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol".
[3] Financial Times. "Sleepless nights over climate change", December 9, 2012.

Food security an issue for Parlatino

The 28th Ordinary Assembly of the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) was held in Panama City, Panama, November 30-December 1.
The Parlatino was founded in 1964 in Lima, Peru, and is made up of the national parliaments of 23 countries in the region. It was institutionalized in 1987 with the objective of promoting regional integration. Its permanent headquarters is located in Panama and the presidency is held by Elías Ariel Castillo González.
The meeting was attended by 150 national parliamentarians from the region, as well as experts from the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).
The main topics up for discussion at the Ordinary Assembly were the global economic crisis and food insecurity. The initiatives were summarized in various different bills, including the right to food and food security, and the new economic and financial of architecture Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). These projects were approved by the Assembly and will be sent to the countries' national congresses and assemblies for internalization.
The actions in the area of food security are part of LAIA's mandate, in which the organization works jointly with the FAO in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement signed by both entities in March this year.
As a result of this cooperation, the report "Seguridad alimentaria y comercio intrarregional de alimentos en la ALADI" was presented in October, containing elements of discussion in relation to possible joint actions from a regional integration perspective. The work describes the state of food and nutritional security in LAC, in particular in the LAIA countries, noting that the region has a high availability of food, but that it is difficult access for the low-income population to access it. Problems of malnutrition and undernutrition are the result of the poverty of the population, and affect approximately 50 million people in LAC.
Against this background, the research argues that the deepening of intraregional trade in food constitutes an opportunity to improve food security, especially considering the vulnerability of net importer countries, due to volatile and rising international food prices. The proximity of the countries and the similarity of their eating habits and traditions are advantages of key importance in intraregional trade. The report points out that 40.3% of LAIA's agrifood imports come from its member countries, while 14.7% of exports are destined for the region itself (2008-2011 average).
In any event, it is necessary to move forward in the integration of physical infrastructure, and in the reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers, while also overcoming obstacles such as sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and customs procedures.
The publication identifies the potential for expanding intraregional trade in food, guided by the logic that the countries with the greatest surplus outside of LAIA could supply to countries with a deficit in the same products within the region. There is thus a potential to increase trade in wheat-based products from Argentina and Uruguay to Venezuela and Peru, in corn-based products from Argentina and Brazil to Mexico, in sugar from Brazil to Chile, in meat from Brazil to Mexico, in dairy products from Argentina to Mexico and Venezuela, and so on. On the other hand, while the MERCOSUR countries have comparative advantages in soybean oil production, this product does not form part of LAIA countries' imports from the rest of the world. In the case of palm oil, the net

exporting LAIA countries (Ecuador and Colombia) do not have enough of a surplus to meet the demand of the net importers (Mexico and Brazil).

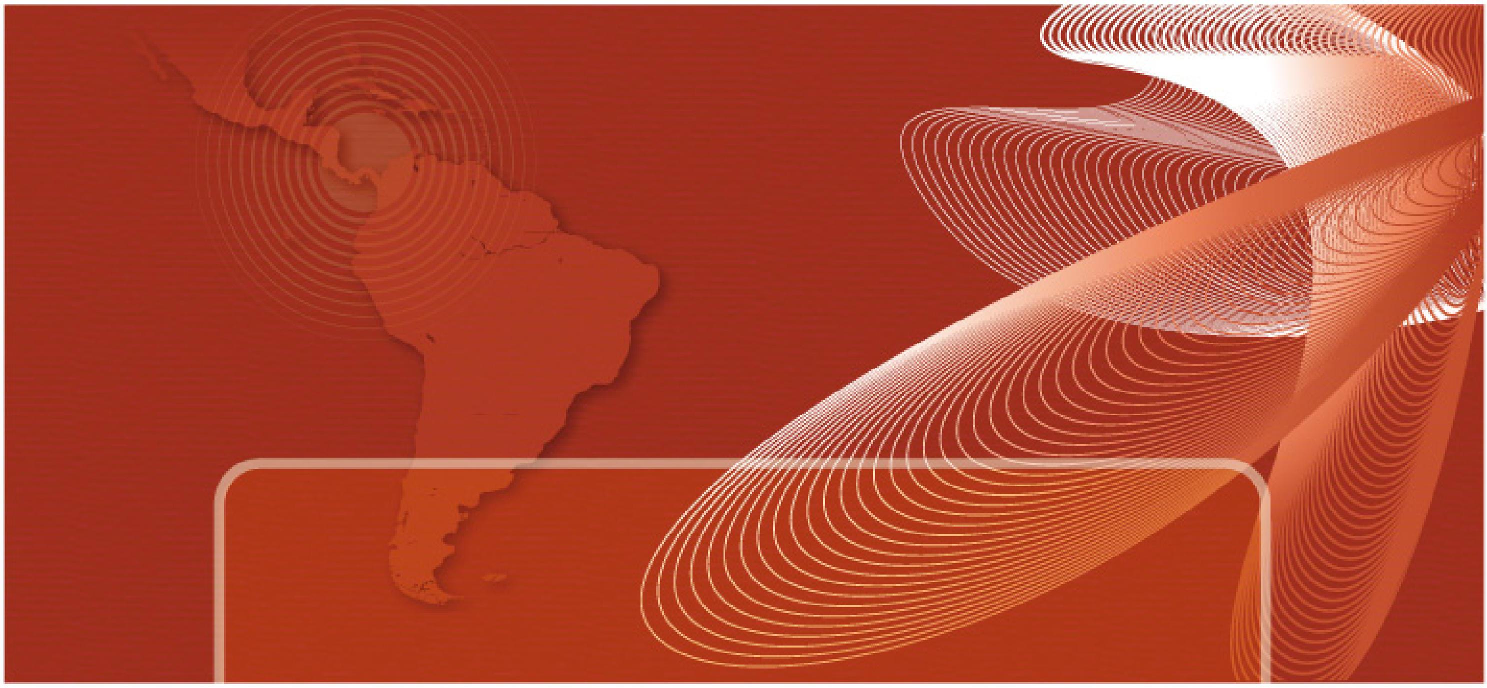
In relation to the tariff level *vis-à-vis* third—most favored nation (NMF)—countries, the average protection for agrifood products is higher than for goods as a whole. While the average MFN tariff was 10.3% in 2011 for the set of goods, it stood at 14.4% for agrifood products. The countries with the highest average protection for this group of products are Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Bolivia, and Venezuela. Conversely, Peru, Cuba, and Mexico have a significant group of zero duty third country agrifood products (MFN tariff).

However, the agreements signed and in force in the framework of LAIA set tariff preferences that involve agrifood products. On the one hand, bilateral relations, with the participation of Cuba, Mexico, and Panama, generally exhibit lower levels of tariff reduction, whereas in the others tariff relief is very extensive. On the other hand, in the vast majority of cases, agrifood products receive preferential tariff treatment in trade among LAIA member countries, but this does not mean that their trade is fully liberalized. As with tariff reduction, less liberalized bilateral relations are found with the participation of Cuba, Mexico, and Panama.

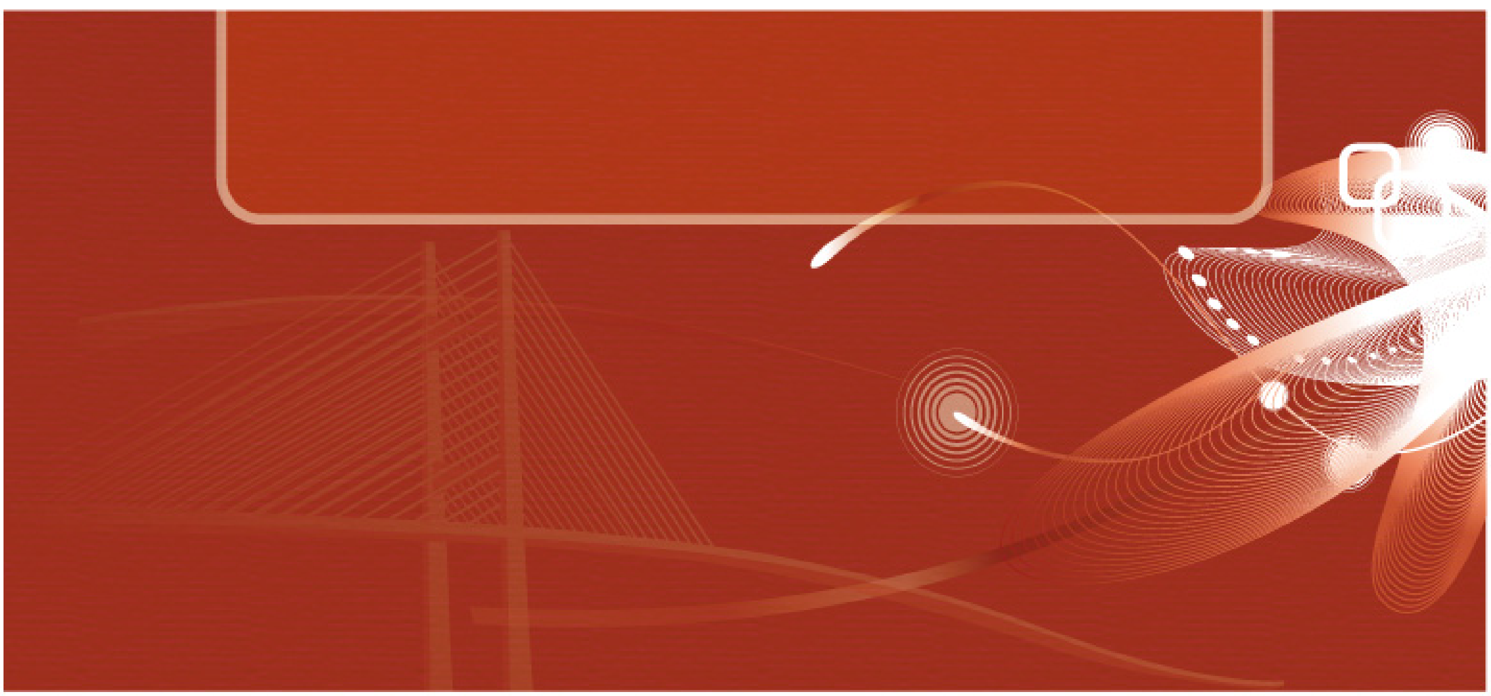
Relations among the MERCOSUR member countries and four Andean countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) display, in several cases, low levels of total liberalization, even when the average coverage of preferential tariff elimination is high. This is due to the fact that such relations are covered by two relatively recent agreements (Economic Complementarity Agreements (ECAs) Nos. 58 and 59), in which tariff reduction is ongoing, in anticipation of full liberalization for the end of this decade.

In this context, the contribution made to agrifood trade by the agreements in force in the framework of LAIA is reflected in the fact that 66% of the products enjoy tariff preferences and 50% are fully liberalized. Although the elimination of tariffs on intra-LAIA trade in agrifood has so far been significant, there is still scope for progress in bilateral relations as a whole.

More information at the following links: [1], [2].

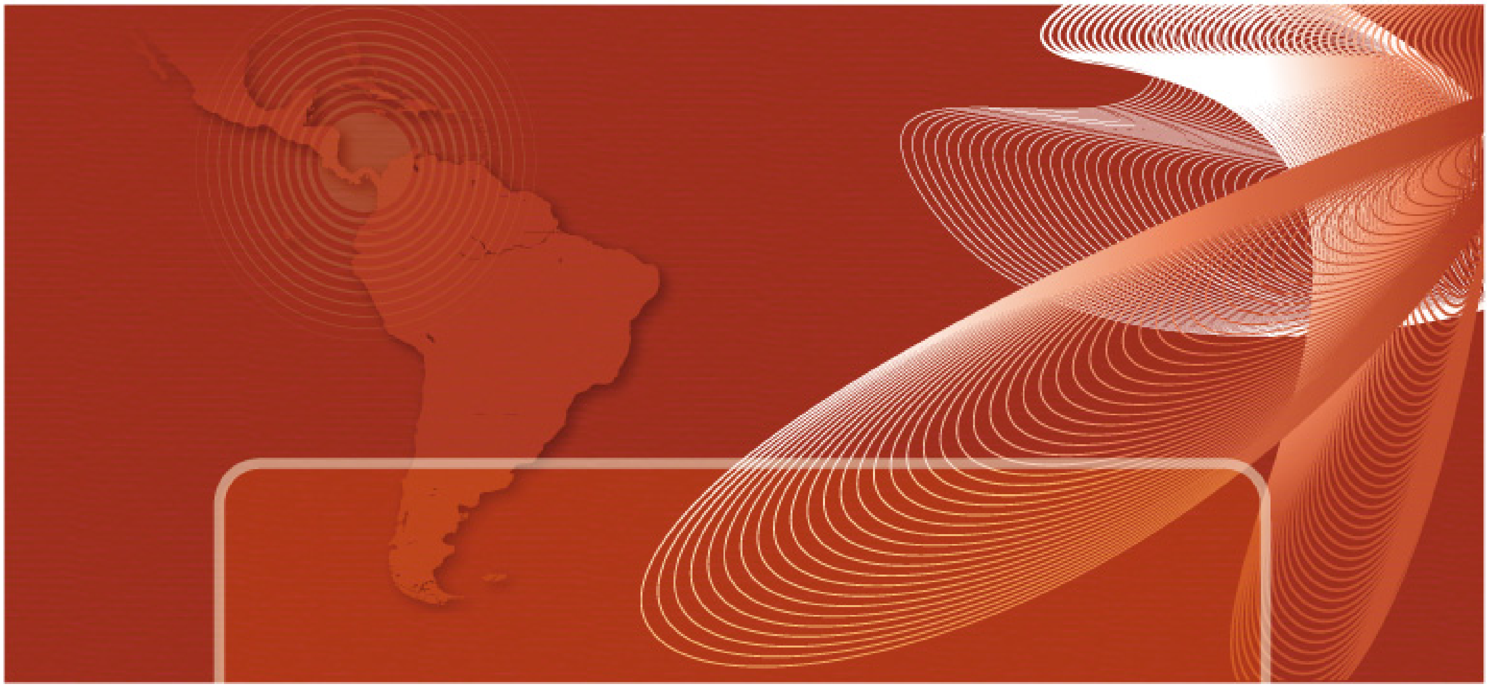


INT Newsletter

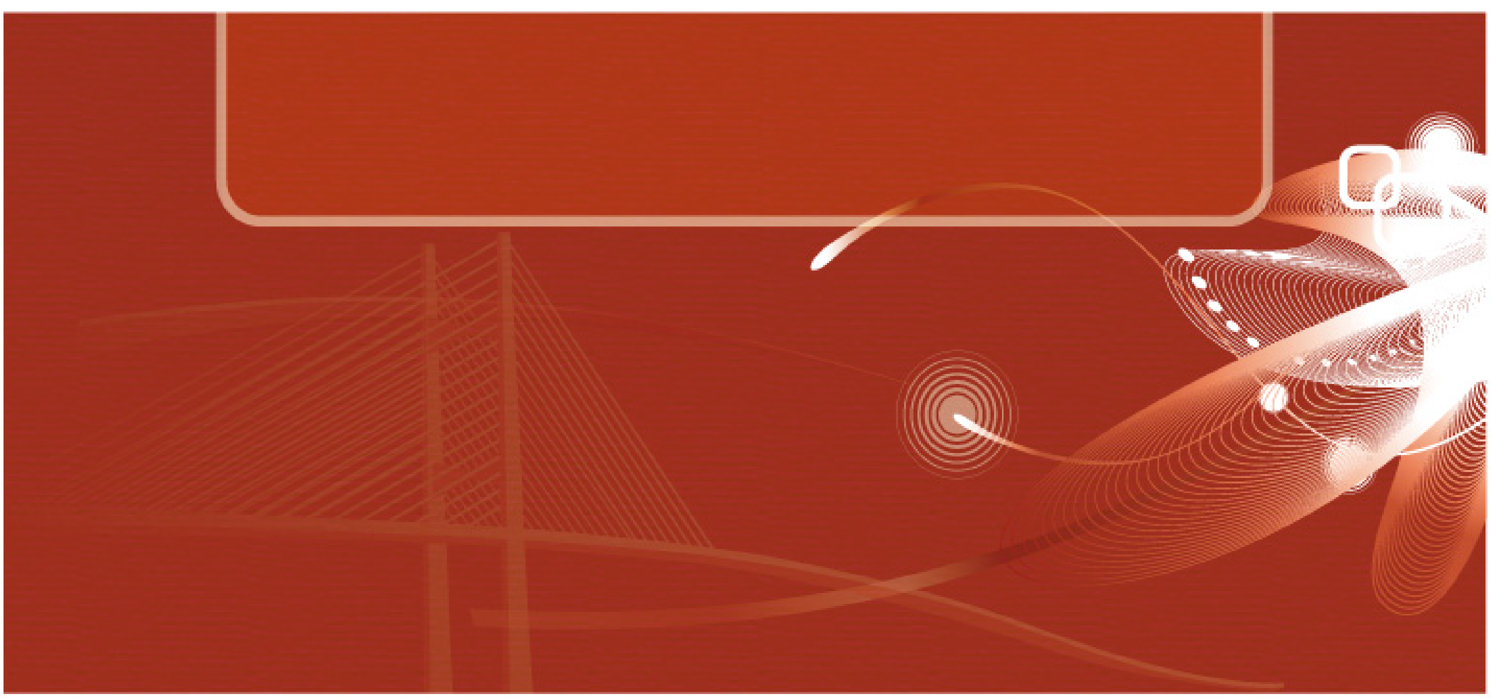


Integration and Trade Sector

Check the latest issue of the Integration and Trade Sector Newsletter for more activities/events/publications (link)



Other IDB Activities

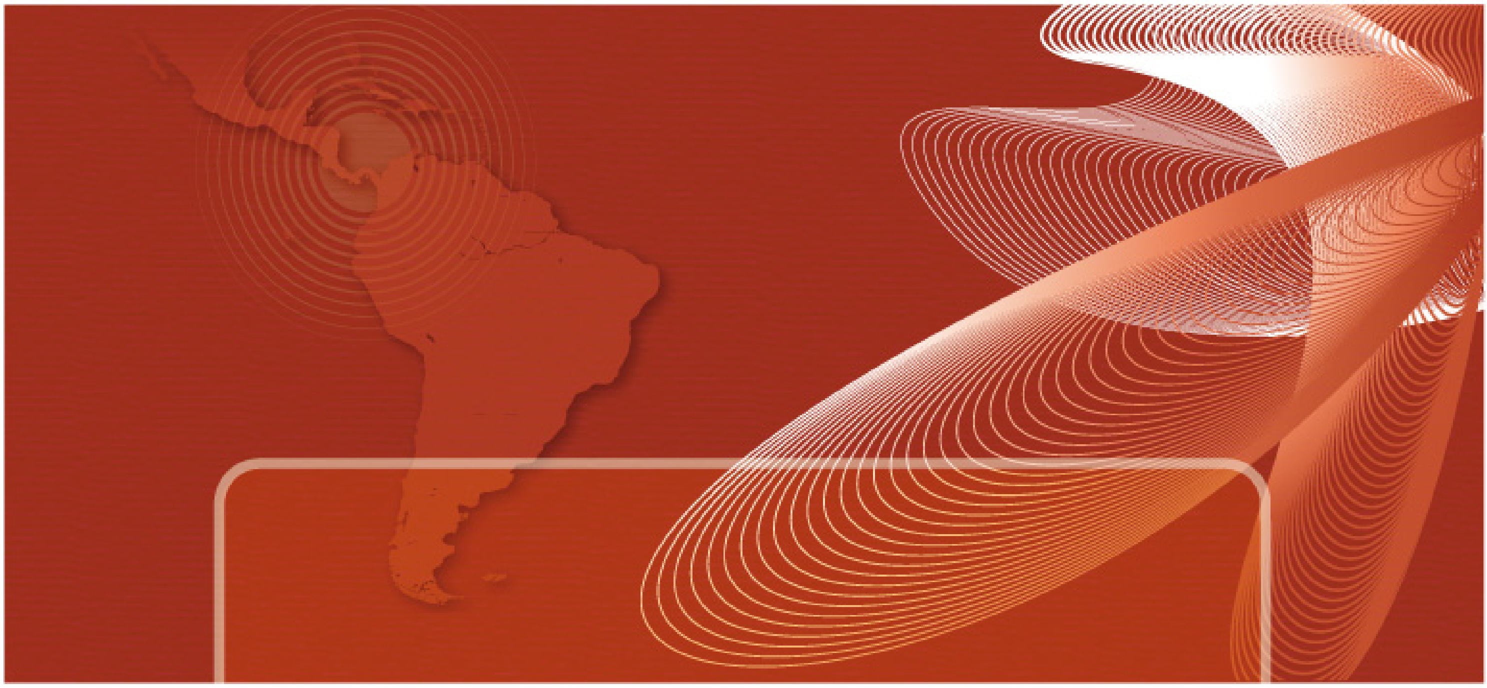


First meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Logistics and Freight Transport Observatories' Network

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL) organized the first seminar of the Logistics and Freight Transport Observatories' Network in the region to share expertise on data collection in the sector (link).

Workshop of the Mesoamerican Observatory on Freight Transport and Logistics

The Transport Division of the Infrastructure and Environment Sector (INE/TSP), together with the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean (INTAL) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), organized the first workshop of the Mesoamerican Observatory on Freight Transport and Logistics, in Panama City, Panama, December 4 and 5, 2012 (link).



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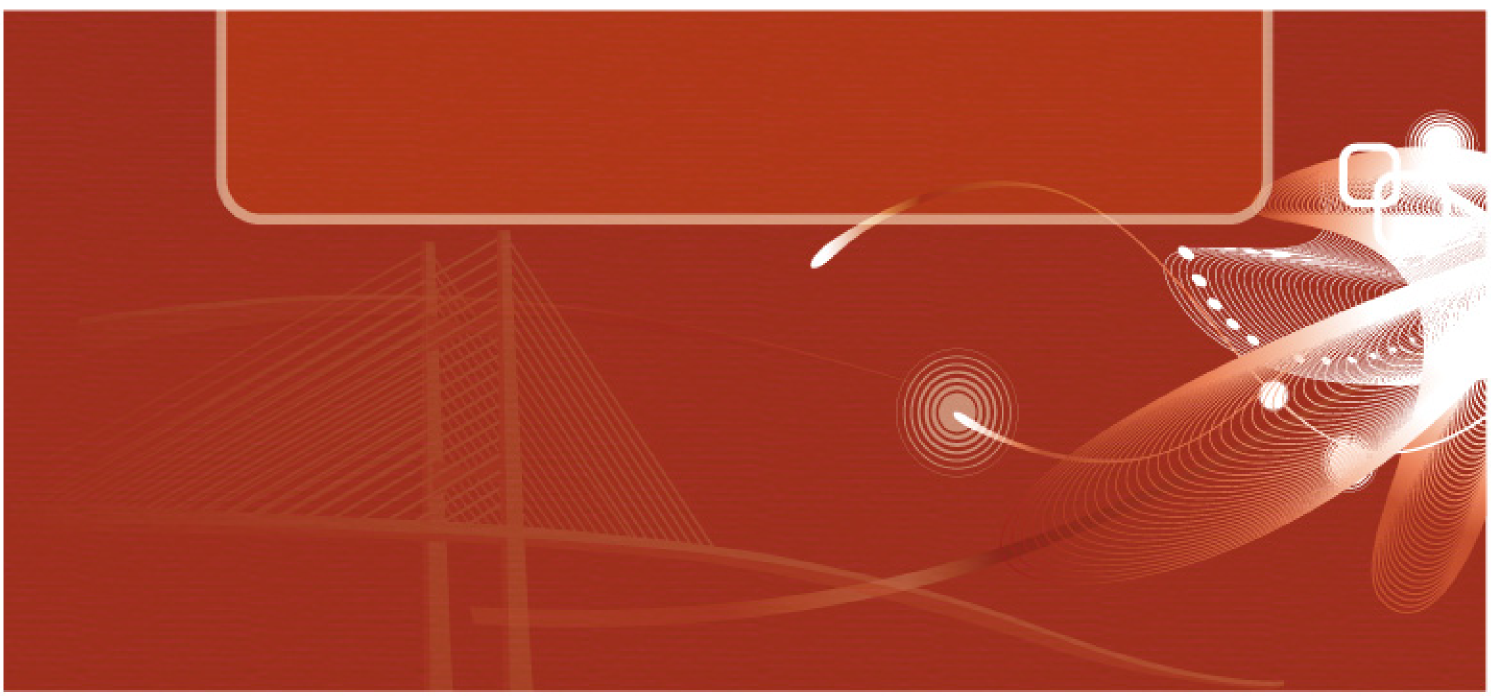

Reviews

Informe sobre el Proceso de Integración Regional, 2011-2012. Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA). Caracas: SELA, October 2012 [171 pp.]

The publication prepared by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) describes the region's integration process between October 2011 and September 2012.
The first chapter outlines the international context and points out the main risks associated with the current crisis in several economies in the European Union, as well as the possible effects of a slowdown in China on the prices of raw materials.
The second chapter deals with the major institutional issues in integration, looking at both the existing schemes and the emergence of new ones.
In terms of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the work emphasizes the easing of tensions between the Member States, as well as various initiatives, such as the "2012-2016 Andean Environmental Agenda" and the document "*Comunidad Andina: Indicadores Sociales 2012*". It also highlights the signing of the free trade agreement (FTA) between Colombia and Peru and the EU, and the entry into force of the Colombia-United States FTA.
Regarding MERCOSUR, it highlights the suspension of Paraguay and the incorporation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as significant events.
On the Central American Integration System (SICA) it points to the reaffirmation of the five pillars of the regional priority agenda and the incorporation of Panama in the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), as well as the signing of a Partnership Agreement between Central America and the EU.
In the case of the CARICOM, it draws attention to the restructuring of its Secretariat and the negotiations for a Trade and Development Agreement with Canada.
Last, it welcomes Panama's incorporation as a member country of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).
In terms of the new institutions with a regional scope, it points up, on the one hand, the consolidation of the institutional structure of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in the framework of the workings of its various Councils, highlighting in particular the activities of the

Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA), which has been incorporated into the South American Infrastructure and Planning Council (COSIPLAN). It also lists the meetings held by the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) and describes the transactions carried out in the framework of Petrocaribe. It describes the relevant developments in the Mesoamerica Integration and Development Project and the consolidation of the various physical interconnection, electrical, telecommunications, transport, and trade facilitation projects. Last, it highlights the implementation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), with the participation of 33 countries, and describes the documents on the procedures for its operation and action plan.

The work evaluates the progress in the integration processes, but deems them inadequate to meet the challenges of the global environment. The investigation emphasizes the need to promote the search for joint strategies at the regional level.

The fourth chapter describes the trade in goods between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It estimates that the share of intraregional exports fell from 19.4% in 2009 to 18.5% in 2011, mainly as a result of the higher level of growth in extraregional sales. Using data for intrazone exports by subregional bloc, it shows that MERCOSUR has the highest ratio of share in total sales, followed by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Common Market (CACM), and CAN.

The document makes various policy recommendations to promote convergence between subregional blocs. To consolidate integration in South America, it suggests promoting exports, expanding market access, and cutting and eliminating non-tariff barriers (which are particularly harmful to the smaller countries), improving macroeconomic coordination, simplifying trade rules and disciplines, promoting productive integration, liberalizing government procurement, among other possible actions.

To promote the integration of the Central American and Caribbean countries, the investigation proposes negotiating new partial scope agreements, supporting the private sector for trade missions, promoting exports of goods and services, and establishing one-stop systems.

The fifth chapter deals with the integration of services in LAC, noting that intraregional trade in services has great potential for growth, but this will require the removal of barriers to access, sectoral commitments, and the convergence of existing agreements. The share of the services sector in the GDP of LAC countries has grown steadily over the last decade (71.3% in 2001 to 74.2% in 2010), and generates 80% of urban employment in the region. Services exports, which reached US$142 billion in 2011, are particularly relevant to SICA and CARIFORUM (CARICOM and the Dominican Republic).

The sixth chapter deals with LAC's foreign direct investment (FDI) flows. It draws attention to the fact that the region received record flows in 2011, mainly to South America. It also shows intraregional FDI flows, highlighting Mexico's role as an investor in LAC. The investigation highlights the policies implemented by some countries to promote the internationalization of their companies, mainly Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and more recently Colombia.

The seventh chapter describes the mechanisms aimed at developing monetary and financial coordination in LAC, such as those to finance intraregional trade and those targeting the prevention of systemic crises. It also points to the importance of promoting the redesign of international financial institutions in order to give the developing countries a greater role in accordance with their current weight in the global economy.

The eighth chapter discusses productive integration in the region, claiming that the greater part of

this phenomenon takes place through intraindustrial trade among multinational corporations, while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) only export a small proportion of the total. To encourage the development of productive integration the work proposes the incorporation of underdeveloped sectors by training providers, diversifying exports, implementing border development programs, and overcoming asymmetries between the region's countries. The investigation points out that multilateral financing institutions have a role to play in this area, and may expand the number of projects involving joint production processes across the countries.

The ninth chapter provides an overview of the social dimensions of integration, highlighting the initiatives of the various different organizations at the subregional level.

The tenth chapter concludes with reflections and recommendations to further deepen trade and financial links among the region's countries with the aim of overcoming the disparities and asymmetries between them.

The publication's value lies in the collation and exposition of the various aspects of recent developments in integration in LAC, while looking at progress and making policy proposals. It is a useful document that brings together institutional, commercial, investment, production, and social aspects in a single work, making it a source of consultation about recent developments in the region.

Bibliographic alert

This weekly alert disseminates information on the highlighted documents recently uploaded in the INTAL Documentation Center Data Base (CDI). It also provides links to open access bulletins and journals in Spanish, Portuguese and English. Click here

Monthly Highlights

* Integration & Trade Journal N° 35: Exports and investments in LAC

The purpose of this issue is to reflect on the Latin American and Caribbean countries' various patterns of specialization and modalities of international integration, with especial emphasis on countries whose exports are, for the reasons stated above, based on natural resources.

The document is available here

* Informe MERCOSUL Nº 17 (Portuguese Version)

O Informe MERCOSUL Nº 17 (julho de 2011 - junho de 2012) analisa o panorama macroeconômico e os fluxos comerciais dos países do Mercado Comum do Sul (MERCOSUL),assim como os principais aspectos do processo de integração do bloco, tanto na agenda interna quanto na externa.

(Spanish version will be available to February 2013).

The document is available here.

* Latin American Trade Trend Estimates 2012

Global slowdown weakens Latin America's trade performance according with an IDB study Latin American-Trade Trend Estimates 2012.

The document is available here.

* Convergencia macroeconómica andina 2011: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú. Comunidad Andina, CAN. Lima: Secretaría de la CAN, Agosto 2012 [301 p.]

Título: Convergencia macroeconómica andina 2011 : Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú
Otros responsables: Comunidad Andina, CAN
Edición: Lima: Secretaría de la CAN, Agosto 2012 [301 p.]
Temas:‹COMUNIDAD ANDINA, CAN›‹CONVERGENCIA›‹ESTADISTICAS›‹INDICADORES ECONOMICOS›‹FINANZAS›‹PRODUCTO BRUTO INTERNO, PBI›‹CONSUMO›‹SECTOR PUBLICO›‹DESEMPLEO›‹INFLACION›‹PRECIOS›‹FINANCIAMIENTO DEL DESARROLLO›‹INTEGRACION ECONOMICA›‹MACROECONOMIA›‹POLITICA MACROECONOMICA›
Geográficos:‹REGION ANDINA›‹BOLIVIA›‹COLOMBIA›‹PERU›‹ECUADOR›

Resumen: El presente Informe analiza el desempeño económico del Estado Plurinacional (E.P.) de Bolivia durante 2011 y evalúa el cumplimiento de las metas del Programa de Acciones de Convergencia (PAC) de la Comunidad Andina de Naciones (CAN). En términos de actividad, la economía boliviana tuvo un crecimiento más alto que en 2009 y 2010, denotando una de las trayectorias más estables y sostenidas en la región. En efecto, al tercer trimestre de 2011 la tasa de crecimiento del Producto Interno Bruto (PIB) fue de 5,1 porciento, superando en 1,5pp (puntos porcentuales) al incremento registrado en similar periodo del año anterior y en 2,2pp al de 2009. El crecimiento fue liderado por varias actividades no extractivas, entre las que destacaron el Transporte, almacenamiento y comunicaciones; los Servicios financieros y la Industria manufacturera. Asimismo, actividades extractivas no renovables incidieron positivamente en el PIB, como fue el caso de los hidrocarburos (por la mayor demanda de gas por parte de Argentina) y la minería. Por tipo de gasto, la demanda interna siguió apuntalando el crecimiento gracias a la dinámica del consumo privado y la contribución de la inversión pública y privada. Por otra parte, al tercer trimestre de la gestión, el sector externo presentó nuevamente resultados favorables, hecho reflejado en un saldo positivo de la Balanza de Pagos equivalente al 5,3 porciento del PIB y que fue explicado tanto por la cuenta corriente (en razón a una balanza comercial positiva y el incremento de remesas) y la cuenta capital y financiera ...

Nota general: El Documento eléctronico consta de 156 páginas a dos columnas, lo cual dá un total de 301 páginas.

Nota de contenido:

Accesos al documento:
eHM CAN-CONV.MACRO.ANDINA [2011]
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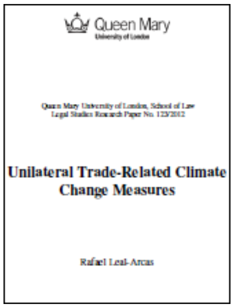
texto completo. Si no pudo acceder haga click aqui

* Unilateral Trade-Related Climate Change Measures. Leal-Arcas, Rafael. London: University of London, 2012 [63 p.] Law Legal Studies Research Paper; 123.


Queen Mary University of London

Queen Mary University of London, School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper No. 123/2012

Unilateral Trade-Related Climate Change Measures

Rafael Leal-Arcas

Autor: Leal-Arcas, Rafael
Título: Unilateral Trade-Related Climate Change Measures
Edición: London: University of London, 2012 [63 p.]
Serie: Law Legal Studies Research Paper; 123
Temas:<POLITICA AMBIENTAL><POLITICA COMERCIAL><CAMBIO CLIMATICO><DERECHO INTERNACIONAL><MARCO JURIDICO><ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO, OMC>

Resumen: Climate change mitigation has become one of the most relevant topics today, and it will continue for years to come. It is a concern that has implications in economics, law, science, human rights, technology, international relations and ethics, to name but a few fields of knowledge. Climate change is a global problem that knows no geographical barriers. International law is not well equipped to face the challenges of climate change. Global climate is an indivisible public good. International law currently faces the challenge of fragmentation and the need to bring greater coherence to a fragmented system in combating climate change. The aim of this article is to explain the trade implications of climate change mitigation policies by analyzing a couple of areas where the international regimes for trade and climate change mitigation/energy may potentially clash: border carbon adjustments and applying subsidies and similar measures in order to encourage environmentally-friendly technologies. After the introduction, Section 2 provides an analysis on the link between the legal regimes of international trade and climate change. Section 3 compares both regimes and Section 4 offers an overview of unilateral trade-related climate change measures. Section 5 examines the main WTO provisions on subsidies and analyzes the WTO cases on subsidies for renewable energy. Section 6 focuses on the inclusion of aviation in the EU Emission Trading Scheme (EU ETS) and the potential expansion of the EU ETS to the shipping industry. Section 7 concludes the article.

Accesos al documento:
E 339.54 / LEA-UNI / 2012
Documento Electrónico

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* Los Desafíos de la Integración y los Bienes Públicos Regionales: Cooperación Macroeconómica y Productiva en el MERCOSUR. (2012). Montevideo: Red Mercosur.

Título: Los Desafíos de la Integración y los Bienes Públicos Regionales : Cooperación Macroeconómica y Productiva en el MERCOSUR
Edición: Montevideo: Red Mercosur, 2012 [344 p.]
ISBN:978-9974-8272-2-6
Serie: Red Mercosur; 21
Temas:<MERCADO COMUN DEL SUR, MERCOSUR><FONDO PARA LA CONVERGENCIA ESTRUCTURAL DEL MERCOSUR, FOCEM><UNION EUROPEA, UE><COOPERACION COMERCIAL><COOPERACION ECONOMICA><COOPERACION PARA EL DESARROLLO><BIENES PUBLICOS REGIONALES><INTEGRACION FINANCIERA><SISTEMA FINANCIERO INTERNACIONAL><BIOCOMBUSTIBLES><POLITICA FINANCIERA><FINANZAS><MERCADO FINANCIERO><MERCADOS FINANCIEROS EMERGENTES><MICROFINANZAS>
Geográficos:<AMERICA LATINA>

Resumen: La demanda por la provisión de bienes públicos regionales es uno de los puntos clave pendiente de la agenda de la integración en América Latina. Estos son bienes cuyos impactos pueden exceder las fronteras de un país, por lo que su generación representa a la vez un desafío y una motivación para la cooperación regional. Dado que los costos y beneficios derivados de su existencia pueden distribuirse de manera asimétrica entre los países involucrados, se plantea la necesidad de alinear incentivos y generar mecanismos de coordinación eficaces. Pese a la existencia de diversos bloques y acuerdos regionales y de la vitalidad del comercio intra regional hay factores que determinan una provisión insuficiente de bienes públicos regionales. Incluyendo, la débil sincronización de ciclos entre países vecinos, la heterogeneidad de sus estructuras productivas, las asimetrías de tamaño, las debilidades del marco institucional de la integración, la presencia de fallas de coordinación, y la escasa integración financiera, entre otros.

Nota de contenido:
1: Bienes públicos regionales: áreas prioritarias para la cooperación
2: Bens públicos regionais: a política regional da Uni□o Europeia e o Fundo de Convergência Estrutural do Mercosul
3: La nueva configuración macroeconómica de los países del Mercosur: oportunidades y desafíos para la coordinación regional
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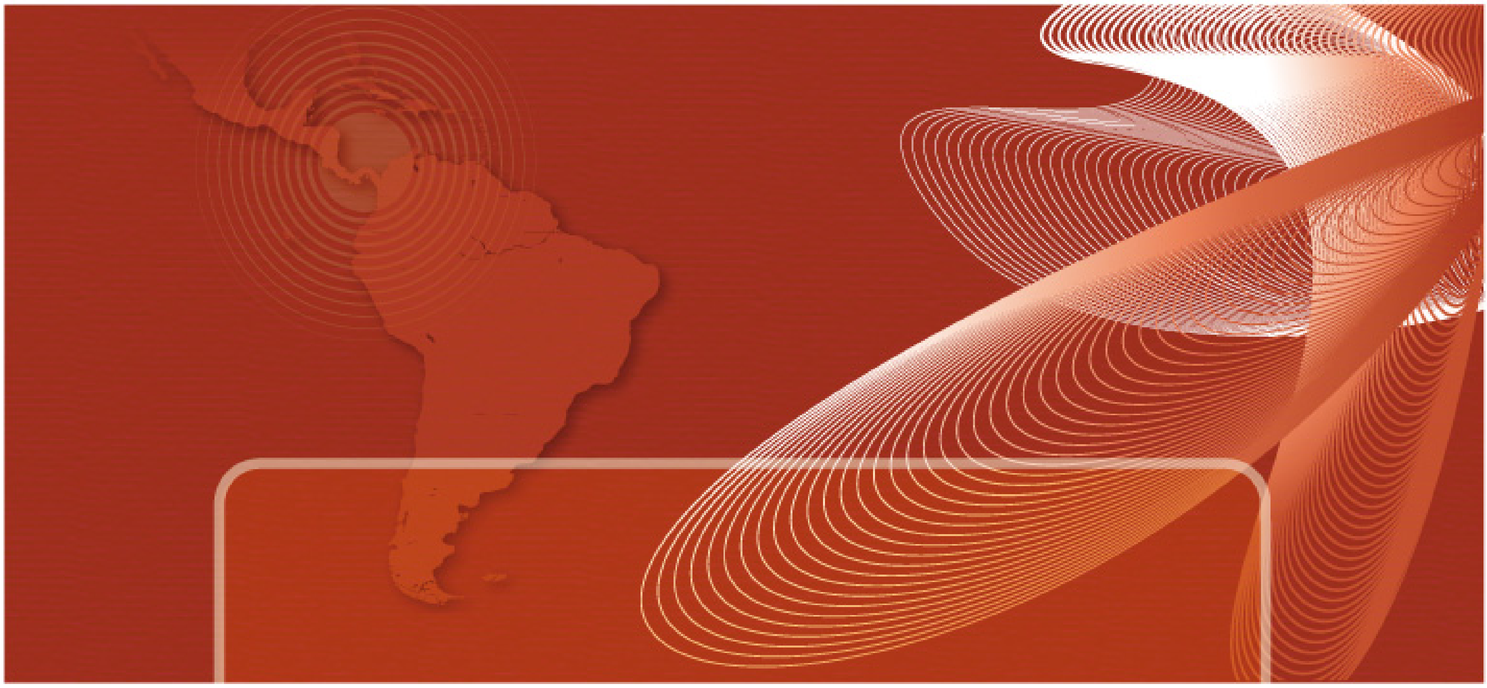

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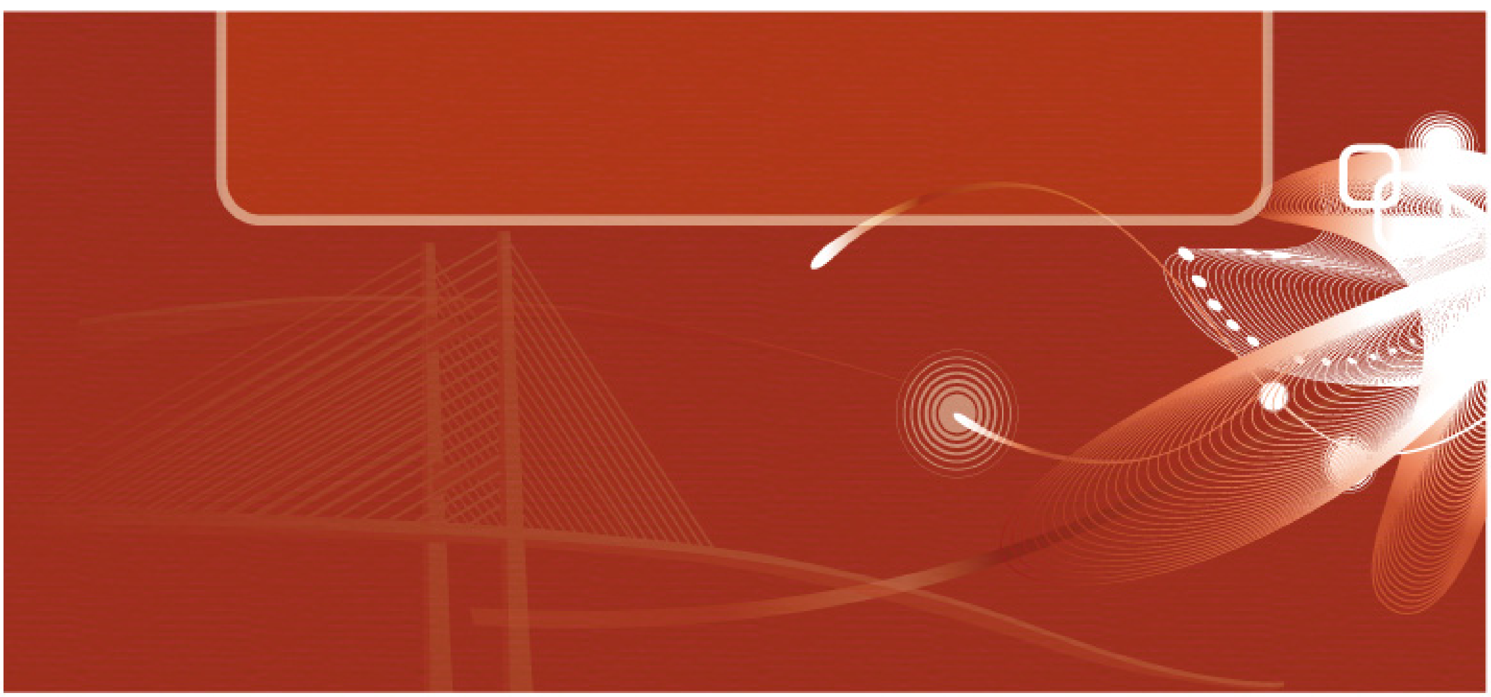

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